

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/620,484
Attorney's Docket No. 99-317

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated January 29, 2004, the Examiner objected to an informality in the specification. The Examiner further rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,838,682 (hereinafter "DEKELBAUM"). The Examiner also rejected claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over DEKELBAUM in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,324,264 (hereinafter "WIENER").

Applicant hereby cancels claims 3, 9, 21-24 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25 and 27 to improve form. New claims 28-37 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of pending claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-20, 25 and 27 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification, indicating that the return character should be deleted on page 8, lines 16-19 so that the lines are contiguous in the paragraph. By the present amendment, Applicant has amended the paragraph to delete the return character as requested by the Examiner. In view of this amendment, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by DEKELBAUM. Applicant respectfully traverses.

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DEKELBAUM discloses an access system for establishing communications with a merchant's facility over a switched network, while maintaining Internet connectivity over a packet data network (see abstract). In the system of DEKELBAUM, a caller can use a web browser to initiate a connection to a merchant's Internet server 102 (column 12, lines 1-7). After the connection is initiated, the merchant's Internet server can send the caller an HTML document, such as the document shown in FIG. 6 (column 12, lines 5-9). The document includes characters, representing a telephone number, enclosed within triangular brackets (column 12, lines 9-11). When the caller "clicks" on the portion of the document displaying the characters of the telephone number, the caller's web browser requests address information, including the merchant's telephone number, from the merchant's Internet server 102 (column 12, lines 10-18). The merchant's Internet server 102 returns the requested address information to the caller, and an autodialer associated with the caller may use the telephone number included in the address information returned from the Internet server 102 to call the merchant (column 12, lines 11-22; column 12, lines 28-31). DEKELBAUM, thus, discloses the retrieval of a telephone number from a remote Internet server in response to "clicking" on a portion of a web page that displays characters corresponding to a telephone number.

In contrast to DEKELBAUM, amended claim 1 recites "selecting a telephone number from a location in the electronic document" "retrieving data, associated with the location, from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call," and "signaling, via a packet-switched network, a telecommunication system to connect a call between the telephone number and a calling party telephone number using the retrieved data." As discussed above, DEKELBAUM discloses

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the retrieval of a telephone number, for setting up a call between a call and a merchant, from a remote Internet server based on the caller "clicking" on a portion of a web page.

DEKELBAUM does not disclose, or even suggest, retrieving data from a selected location in an electronic document, where the retrieved data comprises a telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call, and signaling a telecommunication system to connect a call between the telephone number and a calling party telephone number using the retrieved data, as recited in claim 1. Since DEKELBAUM does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of amended claim 1.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1. These claims patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claims 7, 13, 25 and 27 recite similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. These claims, therefore, patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM for similar reasons to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 8 and 10-12 depend from claim 7 and, therefore, patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 7.

Claim 27, as amended, recites "receiving characters for placement in an electronic document," "analyzing the received characters to determine if any of the characters form a telephone number," "identifying a location of the characters determined to form the telephone number in the electronic document," and "associating data, including the telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call, with the location of the characters determined to comprise the telephone number." As discussed above with respect to claim 1, DEKELBAUM merely discloses the retrieval of a telephone number from a remote Internet server in response to "clicking" on a portion of a web page that displays characters

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corresponding to the telephone number. DEKELBAUM does not suggest or disclose the association of data, including a telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call, with the location of characters in an electronic document, as recited in amended claim 27. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 6, 12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over DEKELBAUM in view of WIENER. With respect to claims 6 and 12, the Examiner cites WIENER as allegedly disclosing "receiving, prior to signaling, the calling party telephone number, and storing the calling party telephone number." Applicant submits, however, that WIENER does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of DEKELBAUM noted above with respect to claims 1 and 7, from which claims 6 and 12 depend, respectively. Thus, claims 6 and 12 patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM and WIENER.

With respect to independent claims 14 and 17, the Examiner cites WIENER as allegedly disclosing that a "call can be connected across a packet-switched network or a circuit-switched network." Applicant submits, however, that WIENER does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of DEKELBAUM noted above with respect to claim 1, and claims 14 and 17 recite features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Thus, claims 14 and 17 patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM and WIENER. Claims 15-16 and 18-19 depend from claims 14 and 17, respectively, and, therefore, patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM and WIENER for at least the reasons given with respect to claims 14 and 17.

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New claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 27 and, therefore, patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 27.

New claims 30-37 recite "selecting a telephone number displayed at a location in the electronic document," "based on the selection, retrieving data associated with the location from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call," and "sending a message containing the received data to a remote device to set up a call between the telephone number and a calling party telephone number." As discussed above with respect to claim 1, DEKELBAUM merely discloses the retrieval of a telephone number from a remote Internet server in response to "clicking" on a portion of a web page that displays characters corresponding to the telephone number. DEKELBAUM does not suggest or disclose the association of data, including a telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call, with the location of characters in an electronic document, as recited in claims 30-37. Applicant, therefore, submits that claims 30-37 patentably distinguish over DEKELBAUM.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-2347 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Joel Wall

Reg. No. 25,648

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Verizon Corporate Services Group Inc.
600 Hidden Ridge Drive
Mail Code: HQE03H14
Irving, Texas 785038
(972) 718-4800

Customer No. 32127